# TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

# THE DELAWARE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

ESTABLISHED 1909

305 and 307 W. EIGHTH ST.
WILMINGTON : DELAWARE
NINETEEN HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE

HV1796

# THE BLIND SHOP

305 and 307 W. Eighth St.

Wilmington - - - Delaware

PHONE: - - - - BELL 198-W

# The Delaware Commission For the Blind

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CHARLES H. TEN WEEGES, Secretary ..... 1919-1924
DAVID C. ASPRIL, Treasurer ..... 1919-1924
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MRS. IRENEE DU PONT, Wilmington ..... 1914-1924
MRS. LEWIS MUSTARD, Lewes ..... 1909-1924

THE LIVING ROOM AT THE BLIND-SHOP

## TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK FOR THE DELAWARE BLIND

In order to create a better understanding of the work for the Blind in Delaware, which it is hoped will be appreciated by the friends of humanity, and to correct false impressions among our friends, we present in some detail the work of our activity.

The self-respecting blind and their condition, are largely screened from public view by their natural diffidence with the result that the public is more familiar with the mendicants operating on our streets than they are with the industrious and high-spirited workers struggling against their handicap. It is also desired that all humane and public-spirited people should know more of this work for the uplift of our fellow creatures.

The Blind-Shop furnishes a home and occupation to its resident workers and pays them for the products of their efforts. It supplies work to "non-resident" blind who in this manner are enabled to earn a large percentage of their livelihood in their homes and in addition, is deeply interested in a small group of blind men who ply their vocations independently. Through these several channels an ever increasing total of blind men have been encouraged, by the work of the Shop, to rise above their handicap and become an industrial asset to society.

Mr. Herman Welker, of Baltimore, has been secured as supervisor at The Blind-Shop. Mr. Welker is a graduate of the Maryland School for the Blind, and has had considerable experience in Baltimore, Md., and Romney, W. Va., teaching the vocations open to the blind. It is hoped that his experience and ability will greatly improve the mechanical operation at The Blind-Shop.

The Commission has card records of 219 blind persons in Delaware. A representative of the Commission visits every one of these each year, investigating their welfare and extending encouragement to improve their condition. When a case requires attention, we make frequent follow-up visits and provide home teaching. We have a crippled boy in Lewes who has made wonderful progress in the handicraft open to his condition. Many of the Blind are aged and our blind field workers can do but little than to cheer them up. The blind child is the especial care of this work. The parents or guardians of blind children are loathe to part with them in spite of the great advantage of an education, which would permit them to take their place in the world. The Commission has a record of every child in the State that has been located. We have record of 14 blind children in Delaware; 12 of whom have been placed in the splendid schools for the blind, and all are making excellent progress. In co-operation with the Sunshine Society, a blind baby who was without care, has been placed in the Arthur Home for Blind Children in New Jersey, at an expense of $550.00 per year, for

CHAIR CANING AND BASKET DEPARTMENT

which there is no fund available. This child has shown remarkable improvement and must be supported.

Twice each year a representative of the Commission visits the schools for defectives where pupils are maintained at the expense of the State. The Commission takes an interest in each pupil and provides for its care when there is no other provision. One orphan, twelve years of age, from the Maryland School for the Blind, is now provided for at The Blind-Shop, while the school is closed for summer vacation.

The Commission has obligated itself to provide for the higher education for two worthy blind students, who show prospects of great development. One of these is attending the Peabody Institute of Baltimore and shows great proficiency upon the piano. She has several private pupils and bids fair to make a success in her vocation. The second is a promising student now matriculated at the University of Delaware where he has been received with much encouragement.

The Executive Department of the Commission does a large amount of Welfare work, not only among the blind, but among other cases that come to its attention. They have taken many ailing children to our specialist for treatment, all of whom have been greatly benefitted. Our specialist and hospitals have given our cases the best of attention mostly without charge. There have been at least five cases treated this year at the instigation of the Blind-Shop.

The Blind-Shop has opened its doors to one of the heroes of the late war, and the "flu" in this city; Miss Duncan, who was formerly the head of one of our hospitals, and who served in the war before America entered the struggle as well as throughout the U. S. participation. During an intermission between her two periods of War Service, the "flu" epidemic visited our city. She volunteered immediately and served with distinction. As result of her activities, she lost her sight, and is otherwise totally disabled. She was offered accommodatons at the Blind-Shop, to be near the library for the blind, and has been a most happy and acceptable addition to our family.

The concert given for the benefit of the Building Fund was a success in spite of the conditions of the times. All the artists were blind and were much appreciated by a large audience. The net proceeds amounted to $525.00.

The following schedule shows the work for The Blind-Shop for the year ending April 1, 1921: 2,287 chairs recaned; 439 small rugs, 100 large rugs; 145 dozen brooms made; 53 baskets repaired; 27 pianos tuned. Total wages paid the blind, $4,573.29. 376 embossed books were read by 12 readers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Delaware Commission for the Blind.

MISS MARION BURROWS

Miss Marion Burrows lost her sight in early childhood, and was sent to the Blind School in Philadelphia, where she made great progress, graduating in 1917 in the academic course, and in 1920 in music. A studio has been provided for her at The Blind Shop, where she is now prepared to receive sighted pupils.

## MUSICAL DEPARTMENT AT THE BLIND-SHOP

The Commission for the Blind is deeply interested in one of our young women who has shown great proficiency in music. She is a graduate in music at Overbrook, is now entered at The Peabody Institute in Baltimore, and is teaching piano at The Blind-Shop.

Miss Marion Burrows lost her sight in early childhood, and was sent to the Blind School in Philadelphia, where she made great progress, graduating in 1917 in the academic course and in 1920 in music.

Mr. Harold Randolph, president of The Peabody Institute, upon examining Miss Burrows for admission to that institution, stated that she is far above the average and he assigned her to the head teacher upon the piano, and the head teacher in harmony, which was a high recognition of her ability by so eminent an authority. A studio has been provided for her at The Blind-Shop, and a fine new Kranich and Bach piano has been secured through the courtesy of the Gewehr Piano Co., of this city. She is now prepared to receive sighted pupils upon the piano, and as she has already shown marked success in instructing students, is earnestly recommended to all who desire piano instructions.

## SUNSHINE CONCERT

On May 3, the Cynthia's Helpers' Branch of Sunshine gave at The Blind-Shop an entertainment to all the blind. A very delightful evening was spent in music and recitation and refreshments were served, all of which were deeply enjoyed by those present.

ELMER VOGTS

## THE BLIND CONCERT

### Blind Musicians Delight Auditors

Reprinted from the Wilmington Morning News, June 4, 1921.

Wilmington's annual concert "For the Blind, of the Blind and by the Blind," given last evening in the Playhouse, not only measured up to previous standards but surpassed them.

For one thing the program was noticeably shortened as compared with that of last season. For another the numbers given were better performed. As in the past, however, there was no letting down of the bars of the highest classical estate.

Although there were only three soloists and an assisting artist, the work of each was of that superlative character which caught and held the attention of the audience. As in years heretofore, the marvelous part of the performers was their remarkable ability, although sightless themselves, to interpret the works of the world's best composers.

The three artists were Elmer Vogts, pianist; Abraham Haitowitsch, violinist, and Arthur Richmond, tenor. Miss Margery Hamilton Hill, pianist, was the assisting artist. David Sapiro was the accompanist for Mr. Haitowitsch.

Taken by and large the program was monumental in its height and breadth. Here, it may be remarked, parenthetically of the blind, that they are exactitude itself when it comes to programmatic music.

Mr. Richmond, tenor, sang a group of French, German and Spanish songs from Massenet, Brahms, Richard Strauss and Alcarez. Later he gave a Bohemian folk song, a negro melody, "Deep River," and Clay's familiar "I'll Sing in Old Araby." Miss Hill accompanied him.

Mr. Haitowitsch played splendidly, the Tartini Sonata in G Minor, receiving an encore. Later on the program he offered Bach's "Air on the G String," and "Perpetum Mobile," by Reis, again winning an encore.

Mr. Vogts, the pianist, played most acceptably, two numbers from Chopin; the Nocturne, Op. 15, No. 2 and Bacarole, Op. 60, in opening his own portion of the concert. Then, as the concluding number he gave the Concerto in A Minor, by

Schumann, with Miss Hill as his assisting artist at the second piano.

It was the first time this concerto has been played in Wilmington, and but for the fact that Mr. Vogts and Miss Hill are pupils of George Boyle, head of the department of piano instruction at the Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore, it could not have been played in Wilmington last evening. Mr. Boyle suggested that one of his pupils "with sight" be added as an assisting artist and give Wilmington the opportunity to hear the seldom played Concerto, regarded among musicians as one of the most musical as well as most difficult of all Schumann's numerous works.

How well the audience of last evening received the number was shown by the volume of applause which called both artists "before the curtain."

## REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

June 30, 1921.

Hon. William D. Denney, Governor,
Dover, Delaware.

Dear Sir: In accordance with statutory requirements we have visited schools where defective pupils are maintained at the expense of the State of Delaware, and our report is covered by a written confirmation. We beg to report as follows:

Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-Minded children at Elwyn, Pa., has 10 pupils:

Charles Anker, Wilmington; George Johnson, Wilmington; Lottie Limprum, Wilmington; William Phillips, Wilmington; Louis Weyl, Wilmington; Ralph Regenauer, Odessa; George Weldon, New Castle, Del.; Nellie Heinsley, Camden; Warren Leach, Wilmington; Helen Porter, Wilmington, Del.

The Kendall School of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf, Washington, D. C., has 5 pupils:

Hylda, Lemuel and Edward Lynch, Frankford; Pearl Roberts, Wilmington; Rose Solia, Richardson Park, Del.

These children are doing fairly well.

The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa., has 13 pupils:

Ralph Cavender, Summit Bridge; Andrew Hnatow, Wilmington; Fannie Holleger, Harrington; Frank Hudson, Wilmington; Philip Katz, New Castle; Joseph Krauss, Claymont; Albert Legg, Wilmington; Evelyn Lever, Wilmington; Harold Reynolds, Townsend; Clark Thompson, Wilmington; Otto Wilson, Wilmington; Wesley Walls, Newark; James Hickey, Wyoming.

These children are doing satisfactory work.

The Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, Overbrook, Pa., has 5 pupils:

Emily Adams, Wilmington; Francis Cummings, Wilmington; Marie King, Wilmington; Bertha Stewart, Wilmington; Jessie Wilkinson, Hockessin. Francis Cummings graduated from the Overbrook School and this Commission has obligated itself for his higher education at the University of Delaware.

The Maryland School for the Blind, Overlea, Md., has 5 pupils:

Horace Stewart, Wilmington; John Miller, Cheswold, Del.; John Empson, Wilmington; William Anderson, Wilmington; Rachel Morris, Wilmington.

These children are doing good work.

Respectfully submitted,

C. R. VAN TRUMP,
Chairman.

BLIND BABY ELLEN OF DELAWARE

Now in the International Sunshine Arthur Home for Blind Babies
Summit, New Jersey

## BLIND BABY ELLEN

There is no law in the State of Delaware providing special care and education for the baby blind.

So when Ellen Ziegraf, about two years ago, was found in Wilmington by the International Sunshine Division, Mrs. George W. Dorsey, Jr., president, the child was taken directly to the Arthur Home and Kindergarten for Blind Babies, situated in Summit, New Jersey. This institution is maintained by the Internatonal Sunshine Society, a New York State corporation.

The State of New Jersey forbids paupers entering the State so the International Sunshine Society assumed the guardianship for baby Ellen until State provision could be made.

The Delaware Division of this philanthropic society is very strong. The members are working hard to keep baby Ellen in the Arthur Home and urges everyone interested in the blind to lend a hand in raising her tuition, which is $547.50 a year.

Checks may be sent to Mr. C. R. Van Trump, Chairman of the Delaware Commission for the Blind, 305 West Eighth St., Wilmington, Delaware.

The baby was thin and emaciated when enrolled in the home. This picture lately taken shows her to be one of the fatest little ones now there.

Governor Denney is interested and will help with the legislation when the time comes.

Until then, show your gratitude for your own eyesight How much are you grateful?

MRS. CYNTHIA WESTOVER ALDEN,
President General, International Sunshine Society.

## BLIND SHOP WORKERS HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

Reprint from Sunday Star, July 24, 1921.

The annual picnic of the Blind-Shop, 305-7 West Eighth street, held at Randalia, below Chesapeake City, on Friday, is reported one of the pleasantest ever held by the sightless of this vicinity. There were about 35 present at the affair, the picnickers being taken there in motor trucks. They left Wilmington at 8 o'clock Friday morning and reached home at about 9.30, many of them with good coats of tan and all feeling as if they had been having the time of their lives.

Bathing and boating were the two things most enjoyed by those present, although many took part in various games. Luncheon was served at noon and a "bang-up dinner" given later in the day. There has been considerable rivalry, it is said, since the picnic as to who had the best time, but this question has not been settled.

The affair was given under the auspices of the Delaware Commission for the Blind. The handsome bungalow at Randalia, owned by a friend of the picnickers, was thrown open for their entertainment and every one was given the free run of the place.

During the course of lectures on the blind, given at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., the following paper was read, April 1, 1921, by Miss Cora E. Turner:

Considered relatively, our home State is a small one, permitting a more intimate contact with individual cases than would be practical in the larger and more populous States and it is our practice to have a responsible representative pay a personal visit to every known blind person in the State of Delaware at least once each year. These visitations which necessitate trips to all sections of the State, furnish the opportunity also of checking up our records and forming acquaintance with new cases as they develop.

One method of acquiring information concerning our blind people, credited with considerable importance, is the data furnished through the medium of the United States census reports and our experience with this method prompts us to suggest strongly that improvement in the manner of making this record of detectives should be urged. As an example of the lack of care exercised, we would like to mention the experience of the Chairman of our Commission for the Blind who, on the occasion of the last visit of the local census taker, answered the routine questions as ancestors, birthplace, age, etc., but met with no indication that his state of total blindness was being recognized in any manner. His personal interest, however, caused him to call attention to this matter and the record was amended accordingly, to the evident confusion of the census taker. That this laxity is not uncommon is evidenced by the fact that our Commission has actual record of 219 cases in the State of Delaware, while the last census reports give us the names of but 93. 69 of these cases appeared on our records and 3 were dead. The remaining 21 were investigated and disclosed 11 new cases. It will be noted that out of a total of 219 cases known to our Commission, 150 were not properly reported on the census returns and it is our earnest conviction that we should use all available means to urge more thorough and accurate enumeration, to the end that these reports may attain their maximum possibilities of helpfulness and dependability.

Systematic work for the blind in Delaware began in 1907, and was for a time pursued through the efforts of a Home Teacher. The fortunate selection of a capable and tactful teacher, coupled with the fact that there was a virgin field in

in which to work, produced gratifying results in the early days of our existence, but in later years, with a few exceptions, it was found that the results were far below what might reasonably have been expected from the labor and expense involved. The practice of employing a Home Teacher was then abandoned and in his place a blind man canvasser employed during the summer months, visiting individuals throughout the State, checking up records and looking for new cases, as previously stated. This method, which has been found the most satisfactory for our purposes, is amplified by follow-up work, in the case of the lower counties using part-time of another blind man and handling the teritory in the northern part of the State from the Blind-Shop where we employ resident blind to direct the regular work and to give instructions at the homes of such cases as justify this attention.

We have in this manner been able to interest our Blind Workers, giving them good employment as individual cases merited and putting them into touch with their fellow defectives. While we are ready to admit that regular visits of a Home Teacher are doubtless cheering and generally acceptable even where no other material benefit is probable, we have become convinced that the effects are not sufficiently good to warrant the trips which in many cases would be long, expensive and ofttimes over bad roads. When it has been learned however, that something can be done to improve the condition of a case we have let nothing prevent prompt and thorough attention. On the other hand it has been our experience that too persistent "follow-up" work at times leaves a case stale and it has been repeatedly demonstrated that cases allowed to rest at times will eventually come around without urging.

It has become our intense pleasure to realize that the Blind-Shop in Wilmington has proved a great benefit to a small number of good men. Particular care has been exercised to avoid institutionalism. No set rules are laid down, but the men are required to act as gentlemen and conduct themselves in a respectable and industrious manner, as would be expected of them in any respectable club or habitation. There is no class or race distinction. A democratic organization is maintained at all times and it is the studied rule of the management to give a full hearing and impartial decision on complaints from all of the men. Efforts are exerted toward making everybody feel at home at all times, music and cards being provided and smoking permitted during the "off duty" hours, and all the occupants evidence the effect of a happy and contented mode of life.

Our men work altogether on piecework and pay a low rate of board. The Culinary Department operations for the past year show a cost of eighty-two cents per man for each day.

The blind children of Delaware are sent to the schools at Overlea, Md., and Overbrook, Pa. There being but eleven of school age with prospect of one additional for next year, this affords the best and most economical arrangement the State could possibly make. We are, however, now confronted with the question of a State School for Blind and Deaf, but hope it will be decided to continue the present arrangement which has proved entirely satisfactory and has undoubtedly borne splendid fruit. One young lady, graduate of Overbrook, has been entered, by the State, in the Peabody Institute at Baltimore, where she is making remarkable progress on the piano. She now has six pupils in Wilmington whom she instructs at the Blind-Shop, where a studio was provided her for this purpose. We also have a young man as a classical student finishing at Overbrook this year, who has been practically accepted for entry at Delaware State University next fall. Those of the faculty and student body who have met him are highly-pleased with his erudition and general manners.

We of the Delaware Commission for the Blind are earnestly using all the influence we can command with our State authorities to prevent interference with the activities of the Commission, and we sincerely believe that if we will be permitted to proceed unmolested we shall be able to further our devoted cause in Delaware to its greatest good.

## NOTICE

A complete catalogue of the embossed books to be read with the fingers has been printed in ink type and may be had free to all readers or prospective readers upon application to The Free Library for the Blind, 305-307 West Eighth street. All books are loaned and delivered free of charge by messenger in Wilmington and Parcel Post outside of Wilmington.

The Free Library for the Blind,
305 West Eighth Street,
Wilmington, Del.

# THE INDUSTRIES OF THE BLIND

**RUGS and CARPETS**

The loom department has three hand looms for weaving rugs up to one yard wide and of any desired length. Our own dye plant allows us to produce any desired shade or color. The large loom with a capacity for making rugs up to twelve feet in width and of any length, produces whole floor rugs of artistic design. These rugs are of excellent weave and have found their place in many of our best homes. The department stores in Wilmington and Philadelphia have put our rugs in competition with the best products on the market.

We weave from customers' material and purchase rags. Round and plaited rugs are made by blind women at their homes.

**BROOMS**

The broom department is equipped with three winders and presses, a power sizing machine, and has a capacity of fifteen dozen brooms per day. The finest broom corn is used in these brooms and the workmanship will compare with the best grade of brooms on the market.

**CHAIR CANING**

Chair reseating is an important occupation of the blind; all kinds of cane seating, rush seating and porch chairs, reed and willow chairs repaired. All work carefully inspected and guaranteed.

**BASKETS**

Blind-made baskets are of the most substantial and artistic design, made of willow or India reed; market baskets, lunch baskets, sewing baskets, hampers, etc. Orders taken for special baskets.

**KNITTING and CROCHETING**

All kinds of knitted and crocheted goods, slippers, shawls and table mats made by the blind women. Raffia baskets, coat hangers, slipper trees and table mats.

**PIANO TUNING**

is a most important vocation of the blind. Tuning depends on the ear, and the ear of the blind is most acute. The best factories employ blind tuners. Our tuners work for the most musical people and give universal satisfaction. The work of our tuners is guaranteed.

## THE BLIND SHOP

305 AND 307 W. EIGHTH ST., WILMINGTON, DEL.

Bell 'Phone, 198-W

THE STAR PUBLISHING CO.
WILMINGTON, DEL.